

Statement on the Report of the Commission on Immigration Reform *September 30, 1997*

The Commission on Immigration Reform, chaired by the Honorable Shirley Hufstедler and the late Barbara Jordan, issued its final report today. This report, which reiterates many of the excellent recommendations contained in the Commission's interim reports, further contributes to our country's understanding of the role of immigration in the United States. I commend the Commission's work and its contribution to the national dialog on immigration policy.

America has always been a nation of immigrants, and I am proud of the significant progress my administration has made toward improving America's immigration system. My administration has curtailed illegal immigration through tougher border control, strengthened worksite enforcement, and the removal of record numbers of criminal and other illegal aliens. We have also worked to improve and tighten the

naturalization process and have made needed reforms to our asylum system for refugees fleeing persecution.

One of the Commission's recommendations is to restructure the immigration system by re-allocating the main functions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to other agencies. This proposal raises difficult and complex issues which need further consideration. I have asked the Domestic Policy Council to coordinate with the affected Federal agencies to evaluate carefully the Commission's proposal and other reform options designed to improve the executive branch's administration of the Nation's immigration laws.

With this report, the Commission completes its work. I want to thank all of its members and staff for their service and contribution on these important issues.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashana, 1997 *September 30, 1997*

Warmest greetings to everyone celebrating Rosh Hashana.

Throughout the centuries, the shofar has sounded on this day to herald the beginning of the High Holy Days and the start of a new year. It is a time for both joy and reflection—joy in the promise of another year in which to live and work, reflection on how to grow closer to God and family. It is also an opportunity to look back on our failures and shortcomings during the past year; not to dwell on them with bitterness and regret, but to learn

from our mistakes so that the new year will be sweetened by the gifts of wisdom and hope.

As Jews across America and around the world gather to reaffirm their faith in God and their love of family and community, Hillary and I extend best wishes that the coming year will be blessed with great abundance, true peace, and lasting joy.

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 30.

Statement on Signing the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1998 *September 30, 1997*

I have today signed into law H.R. 2016, the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1998," which provides funding for military con-

struction and family housing programs of the Department of Defense.